

THE ARCHITECT'S NEWSPAPER

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Brave New World

COURTESY LENNAR CORPORATION

A San Francisco ballot measure named Proposition G got the green light on June 3, authorizing the second phase of a \$1 billion mixed-used development in Hunters Point and Candlestick Point, two of the city's least affluent and most isolated districts. The proposal by Lennar-Urban, a division of the

Florida-based Lennar Corporation, will transform two decommissioned naval yards into multi-family housing, commercial development, and over 400 acres of open space. Although infrastructure work began on the site as early as 2006, construction on the project, designed by **continued on page 8**



SANTA MONICA APPROVES MAJOR NEW MIXED-USE PROJECT

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Santa Monica moved a step closer to facilitating a utopian-style mini-community in May when its city council approved plans for The Village, a major mixed-use project on city-owned property. Although the project must still pass minor review under Santa Monica's Architectural Review Board, its last significant hurdle is California

Coastal Commission approval.

Featuring a master plan by local firm Moore Ruble Yudell (MRY), with designs by MRY and Koning Eizenberg, the 3.8-acre Village is slated to include 460,000 square feet of housing and 17,330 square feet of retail space. Its 324 residences will include almost identical numbers **continued on page 6**



PROTEST IN PASADENA

After a month of impassioned protest from students, faculty, and alumni, Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California confirmed on June 24 that its president Richard Koshalek will not have his contract renewed when it expires at the end of 2009. His departure has stirred uncertainty over the institution's \$150 million expansion plan, for which Koshalek had raised \$80 million over the last decade, and includes what is widely being called his legacy project: a \$50 million building designed by Frank Gehry.

A former director of both the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles and the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers, New York, Koshalek has been at the school since 1999. **continued on page 8**



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MORPHOSIS DESIGNING NEW ORANGE COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART

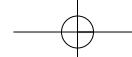
Wise Move

The Orange County Museum of Art (OCMA) in Newport Beach will be packing its bags and moving about eight miles north. The museum announced its plans in early June to build a brand new building in Costa Mesa's Segerstrom Center for the Arts. The project will be designed by Morphosis, and will be that firm's first-ever art museum.

The 12-acre Segerstrom Center, launched in 1976 with a donation of land by giant Costa Mesa retail center South Coast Plaza, is now home to an expanded South Coast Repertory Theater, the 2,000-seat Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, and a 46,000-square-foot community arts plaza. OCMA's move will finally give the center a visual arts presence, while giving the museum itself a much higher profile.

"Culture in the area is really centered on that site. If the museum wasn't there it would be on the periphery of culture in Orange County," explained OCMA director Dennis Szakacs, who joined the museum in 2003. The Segerstrom Center is adjacent to the Orange County Performing Arts Center, which contains several other cultural institutions, including Segerstrom Hall, the Samueli Theater, and Founders Hall.

OCMA has been in its current building since 1974 and underwent an expansion in 1996. Its move to Segerstrom was planned in 1998 when South Coast Plaza, directed by Segerstrom lead benefactor Henry Segerstrom, donated six acres to the Orange County Performing Arts Center to hold for the Segerstrom Center's expansion, including **continued on page 5**



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LETTERS**WHO NEEDS 'EM?**

I much enjoyed Sam Lubell's editorial ("Velvet-Rope Publishing," CAN 04_04.30.2008) regarding "exclusivity" and battling architectural magazines.

But I wonder about any reporter or editor who allows someone else to dictate what projects they cover. No approval? So what? Public records can be had; photographs can be taken from the street or nearby. Is there anything more fun than guerrilla journalism? Why don't you send a letter along these lines: "We are doing the story, and asking other architects, critics, city planners, vendors, contractors, and bankers what they

think of your project. Do you want to participate in a story about your project?"

Once any architect or publicist knows you will do what you say, they will likely cooperate. In fact, probably, you will get a reputation as "one publication you have to get along with." The more we appreciate how cities should develop, and the role that architects can play in that development, the more we must view architecture editors and reporters as being imbued with civic obligations.

Playing nice for access might be a standard that applies to entertainment and celebrity-industry reporting—but should be

long dead in the world of architecture.

BENJAMIN MARK COLE
LOS ANGELES

CORRECTIONS

In our report, "Ennis In Limbo" (CAN 03_03.26.2008), we misspelled the name of a contractor. The contractor for the Ennis House renovation was Matt Construction.

In a Q&A interview with Jane Ellison Usher, president of the LA City Planning Commission (CAN 04_04.30.2008), we omitted the name of the interviewer. It was Tibby Rothman.

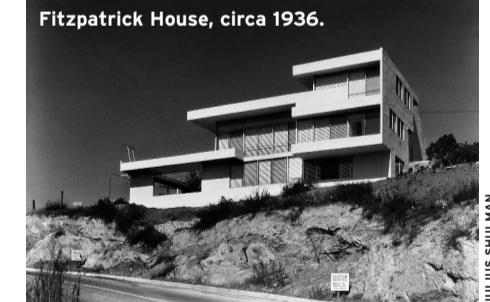
WWW.ARCHPAPER.COM**MAK CENTER RECEIVES SCHINDLER'S FITZPATRICK-LELAND HOUSE****SECOND ACT**

On June 4, LA's MAK Center for Art and Architecture announced that it had been given the Fitzpatrick-Leland House, one of Rudolph Schindler's great residential works. The center plans to use the home as a base for visiting researchers.

Located at the edge of a sharp ridge in Laurel Canyon, the L-shaped, tri-level home includes large horizontal openings, overhanging roof planes, and a subtle composition of interlocking volumes that provides abundant spaciousness and light. It was built on spec for developer Clifton Fitzpatrick in 1936.

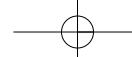
Unlike the MAK Center's other Schindler properties, the Schindler House (1921-22) and the Mackey Apartments (1936), the Fitzpatrick-Leland House acquisition was facilitated by a single donor, local real estate developer Russ Leland, who, since purchasing the home in 1990, has worked with architect and contractor Jeff Fink to restore it from a state of disrepair. Previous owners had covered over the house's large windows with sheetrock, walled in the second-floor balcony, and plastered over a fireplace; the building's foundations also needed re-shoring. Originally named the Fitzpatrick house, its name has been changed to honor Leland.

The house is now home to the MAK Center's new Urban Future Initiative (UFI), which provides two-month residencies to cultural researchers from around the world. Funded by a grant from the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, UFI allows seven researchers or pairs of fellows—chosen by a seven-member jury—to investigate urban phenomena, including sustainability, immigration, and social justice. The program began in April and is scheduled to run through September, 2009. The first UFI fellow, Indonesian architect Marco Kusumawijaya, is studying the relationship between LA's urban history and the amount of material and energy used in the production and operation of its built spaces over the last 100 years. **SAM LUBELL**

Fitzpatrick House, circa 1936.

JULIUS SHULMAN

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EAVESDROP: ALISSA WALKER

THIS IS THE TRUE STORY

Seven strangers were picked to live in a house, yes, but a few episodes into MTV's *The Real World: Hollywood*, fans have realized this is not your typical season. One housemate has already been to rehab and back, and two people have—spoiler alert!—moved out. But hey, at least the counters are made from recycled glass! Yes, folks, you can indulge in this altered reality with a clear conscience because this *Real World* house is sustainable. The house—which is located in the old CBS studios at Columbia Square—was designed by veteran MTV production designer **Chuck Aubrey**, who opted for such details as bamboo flooring, Bosch Energy Star appliances, energy-efficient lighting, and a solar-heated pool. It's the perfect environmentally-responsible backdrop for rampant nudity, anti-gay screaming matches, racial slurs, and more multiple-partner sex than we've seen this side of *Boogie Nights*. Of course, while the Hollywood cast threw its sustainable orgies on a mostly-isolated property, a recent announcement came to us via Eavesdrop NY that next season's *The Real World: Brooklyn* will be shot in the borough's BellTel Lofts. The first *Real World* in a real high-rise. Find out what happens when real neighbors stop being polite and start getting real.

IT'S THE PITTS

As gossip blogs breathlessly await photographic proof of **Brad Pitt** and **Angelina Jolie**'s twins, the architecture world ponders another mystery: Which architect(s) will they name their kids after this time? Since two-year-old **Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt** is obviously named after **Jean Nouvel** (and a **Neil Diamond** song) we're sure they'll only be considering Pritzker-winning names this time around. Might we suggest our two favorites: **Sweet Caroline Koolhaas Jolie-Pitt** and **Holly Holy Herzog & de Meuron Jolie-Pitt**. But while Jolie's fulfilling her role as the world's sexiest balloon, Pitt's busy conceiving other projects on the opposite side of the world: He'll be designing an 800-room sustainable hotel in Dubai for developers Zabeel Properties. No, he's not AIA accredited, but his longtime collaborators at LA-based **GRAFT**, who steered his Make it Right program in New Orleans, will make sure it doesn't fall down. While we've known of Pitt's dalliances with design for quite some time now, a recent statement from Pitt makes it sound like he might step away from in front of the camera for life. Said Pitt: "Whilst acting is my career, architecture is my passion." Whilst? *Whilst?* Spoken like a true architect.

SEND TIPS, GOSSIP, AND TRICK PONIES TO SLUBELL@ARCHPAPER.COM

WISE MOVE continued from front page space for OCMA. After greatly growing its collection, budget, and endowment, and creating a master plan for its new facility, the well-respected OCMA was ready for the move. The Performing Arts Center transferred 1.64 acres next to the Henry and Renée Segerstrom Concert Hall to the museum on June 6.

The new site will allow OCMA to expand from 38,000 square feet to a possible 72,000 square feet, though the final size of the new museum has not been determined. The land transfer agreement requires the museum to break ground on the new building no later than 2013 and to open the museum by 2016. OCMA's Szakacs said he hopes the new museum will be finished before then.

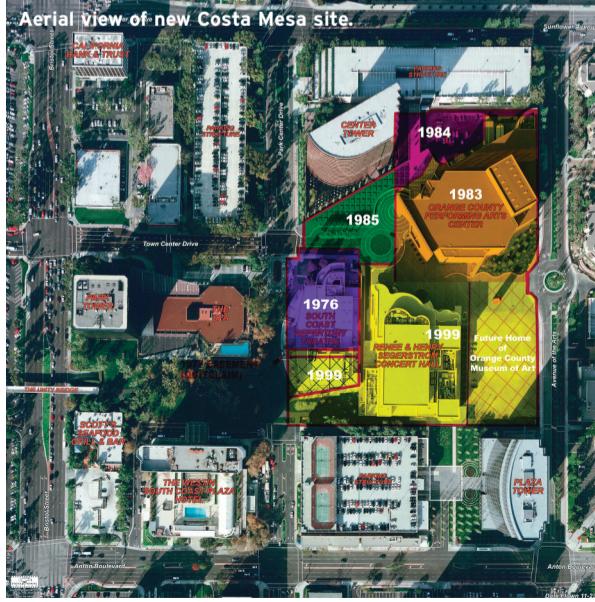
The selection of Morphosis came from an initial list of 15 firms that was then cut to four, including Tokyo-based Shigeru Ban, Madrid-based Abalos & Herreros, and Zurich-based Gigon Guyer. In the end, said Szakacs, the museum was most impressed by Morphosis' enthusiasm and

its willingness "to rethink what a museum is, both spatially, conceptually, and programmatically." Szakacs said the design for the new museum should be unveiled at the end of the summer, adding that there would be a focus on sustainability and on how people move through the museum both inside and outside.

Morphosis had been short-listed for a number of art museums, including LACMA's recent expansion, the Denver Art Museum, and

the Kunsthaus Graz, but had never before been selected to design one.

Henry Segestrom said he was "delighted" about the Segerstrom Center's addition of OCMA, which he called a "phenomenal institution." He added that the Segerstrom Center will stop expanding for a while after the new museum is built. There is an entitlement for another 1,000-seat theater on the land, but "it wouldn't happen for another ten years." **SL**



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JENNIFER REILLY

Talk about eclectic. Royal T, a 10,000-square-foot space that opened in Culver City this May, combines a Japanese-themed cafe, a quirky shop, and a pop art gallery in a former industrial office space renovated and redesigned by local firm wHY Architecture.

Royal T is off-beat, to say the least. The cafe, which serves small Japanese comfort foods like curry rice bowls and Japanese teas, is inspired by the Maid Cafés of Tokyo, where lonely men go to be served by friendly women dressed in French maid costumes. The store sells art-inspired products and books ranging from talking plush dolls by famous designers to comics. The art gallery features exhibitions that rotate every six months by a large list of artists, including Louise Bourgeois, Takashi Murakami, and Cindy Sherman. In keeping with the idiosyncratic mood, the architects celebrated the varied character of the building, leaving the tall space open while exposing the brick and cinder block walls and wooden rafters. The facade, meanwhile, is cheekily lined with plastic boxwood hedges.

"We didn't want cold white walls," said architect Kulapat Yantrasast. "We also didn't want it to feel like something an architect had done." Art galleries are located behind Plexiglas walls throughout the space, allowing the art to become a part of your meal, perhaps prompting comments about the squid-shaped teddy bears and meditating gnomes. **SL**



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IT TAKES A VILLAGE continued from front page of affordable rental units and for-sale, market-rate condos. The 2.44 acres of building will combine with 1.32 acres of open space, all sitting next to a new 6.65-acre city park.

The project will sit on an irregularly-shaped site two blocks from the beach, linking the city's civic center to the east and hotel row on Ocean Avenue to the west. Neighbors include the RAND corporate headquarters and the Viceroy hotel.

The master plan creates its own neighborhood by placing a family park at the inner core and by anchoring key streetfront corners with retail units. Furthermore, a 25-foot-wide walkway runs through the complex, creating "a living street," said James Mary O'Connor, principal at MRY. One of the project's most innovative programmatic components—art lofts with roll-up corrugated metal store fronts bordering two blocks of this street—were requested by the city.

Related California is the project's developer. Located on multiple properties owned by the city's redevelopment agency, the project will leave almost seven acres of city property on its northern border—land that formerly belonged to RAND—as a park. The project will target LEED Silver certification. Santa Monica non-profit developer Community Corporation will team with Related to develop the 164-affordable units that Koning Eizenberg principal Julie Eizenberg said will consist of "family housing" and "artist housing."

Notwithstanding its utopian nature, critics of the project have decried its height, parking variances (the affordable component will be

absolved of Santa Monica's stringent parking requirements), and density. Density also served as a major design challenge. "The hardest thing was actually fitting [164 units] on the land available," noted Oonagh Ryan, senior associate for Koning Eizenberg. One Koning Eizenberg solution is for third floor units of the arts blocks to cantilever out. By hanging the units in the air, the firm left valuable open and community space at ground level. To further break up massing, the firm integrated established strategies such as varied rooflines and rhythms of built and open space with small design surprises that fulfill multiple roles. A number of shading devices will protect against the western sun, and vertical louvers, sliding screens, and fins that project outward add a play of shadow and daylight on the walls.

In approaching the market-rate units that align the new park and Ocean Avenue, MRY created three bands of design, shifting scale between the high ceilings of first floor retail, mid-building residential, and a "top zone" marked by colorful, two-story, townhouse-like condos resting on rooflines.

As part of the development deal, Related will contribute \$592,000 for an off-site childcare facility, \$700,000 towards transit entities like Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus, and \$540,000 towards arts and culture funding.

Can a utopian village be built in today's pessimistic financial environment? "It's location, location, location," said Joan Ling, who heads the Community Corporation of Santa Monica. "If they can't get a construction loan for a project here, then we all have more important things to be worried about in this economy." **TIBBY ROTHMAN**

BERKELEY ART MUSEUM GETS TOYO ITO'S FIRST

HIP TO BE SQUARE

On June 10, the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA) unveiled designs for its new building, the first in the U.S. by Japanese architect Toyo Ito.

Plans for the project got underway after a 1997 survey found that the museum's existing structure—a 1970 concrete Brutalist design by Mario Ciampi—did not meet current seismic standards. The museum selected Ito for the project in fall 2006. His new building, about ten blocks northwest of Ciampi's 103,000-square-foot museum, will be 40 percent larger, with almost 20 percent more exhibition space, an additional theater, and expanded research facilities. The final design is expected to be complete at the end of 2009, and the museum plans to open its new building in 2013. The fate of the existing museum hasn't been decided, although it will not be torn down.

Ito's design calls for a three-story building made of a grid of 16 cubes on each floor, an assemblage that resembles stacked ice trays. Its fluid steel exterior will curve to meet large windows, at times peeling away from the envelope. Its 139,000-square-foot interior, supported by five-inch-thick walls (the grid design removing the need for

additional columns), will be composed of interlocking spaces with gently curved walls. Gallery walls will part like curtains to allow passage between exhibition areas.

The museum's first floor will house two theaters, five exhibition galleries, the museum store and cafe, and other visitor amenities. The second floor will include eight galleries, a screening room, the Conceptual Art Study Center, a learning center, and a library. The top floor, with seven galleries, will be dedicated to works on paper and to BAM/PFA's Asian art collection, and will include an Asian garden gallery.

Nods to the surrounding neighborhood will include a plaza-like extension of adjacent Center Street, a largely transparent ground-floor facade, and a large, multi-purpose interior forum. All galleries and theaters will be equipped with new technologies, and the museum building is targeted to achieve at minimum a LEED Silver certification.

The new building is projected to cost \$100 million to \$120 million for construction. Funding will come entirely from private sources, with BAM/PFA now in the early stages of a fundraising campaign. **SL**



COURTESY TOYO ITO ARCHITECTS

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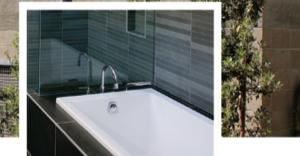
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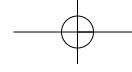
Thornton Lofts
Thornton Lofts is a beach-side, mixed-use development ranging in size from 2,500 sf to 2,800 sf. Featuring exposed structural steel elements, polished concrete floors and ocean views, the project includes 1,000 sf of retail space and subterranean parking to serve the residents as well as the public.



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The museum's Welcome Center.

The Contemporary Jewish Museum (CJM), which opened June 7 in downtown San Francisco, has been a long time coming. Daniel Libeskind took over the project in 1998 after the CJM and its first architect, Peter Eisenman, parted ways. Due to the dot-com bust and a merger/divorce with the Magnes Museum of Berkeley, the CJM's first free-standing building took a decade to complete. It belongs, therefore, to the same phase of the architect's work as the Jewish Museum Berlin.

MARK DARLEY

And like the German museum, the California museum resembles an iceberg come to rest in the midst of a metropolis. Beyond that formal resonance, though, Libeskind sees the two buildings as representing divergent aspects of the Jewish experience. If the German museum casts the tragic figure of the Holocaust on Berlin, the California museum, said the architect, "is all about celebration, about living history, about making connections." In designing the 63,000-square-foot museum, Libeskind based the plan and massing on the forms of the two Hebrew letters—*chet* and *yud*—that make up the Hebrew word for life, *chai*.

Libeskind's ode to life crams into a busy block of skyscraper hotels just south of Market Street, and its *chai*-shape rises out of the remains of an electric power station designed by Willis Polk shortly after the great 1906 Earthquake. The result is a clash of old and new, of red brick and blue steel, of creamy terra cotta ornament and razor-sharp angles; a clash that's intended to comment on the life of architectural ideas. Not by accident, the one spot the restless *yud* touches ground is alongside the apse of adjacent St. Patrick's Church, yet another earthquake survivor. Here Libeskind provokes a clash of shapes in order to evoke the loftiness of human aspiration. At the eastern end of the

church, the apse rises as a gesture toward holiness. Libeskind's precariously balanced polyhedron is also a spiritual probe of sorts, a metaphor for the museum's mission of exploring the culture, art, and history of Jews in Northern California, as well as the meaning of Judaism in the contemporary era.

The dialectical pairings continue inside, where the spacious entrance lobby is framed by Polk's brick wall and the *chet* part of Libeskind's *chai*. Here the brick wall sheds ornament for structure, a gigantic frame of steel I-beams that supported it during construction and now provides seismic bracing. Along with other reconstructed remnants, such as steel catwalks and trusses, the wall conjures up the might of San Francisco's industrial past. Across the lobby, Libeskind's otherwise unassuming white drywall connotes a lengthier past. Illuminated Hebrew letters spell "Pardes," the word for a garden beyond that also speaks to the journeys into Judaism that await museum visitors.

On two levels, the museum's principal spaces—the lobby, cafe and store, three galleries, a multi-purpose room, and educational wing—spill out of the circulation core, where the main staircase and elevator are located, and where the *chet* and *yud* embrace one another. Unlike Libeskind's Denver Art Museum, where slanted walls intrude into

practically every gallery, the two principal CJM galleries are relaxingly rectilinear. The third gallery, however, located on the second floor, combats right angles at every turn. The overwrought space is further destabilized by 36 diamond-shaped windows that allude to a masterpiece of the Soviet avant garde—the house that Konstantin Melnikov designed in 1927 for himself in Moscow.

In spite of the architect's by-now familiar dissonant shapes, the Contemporary Jewish Museum works. Because of its small size, its mix of old and new elements, and its rhythms that oscillate between the restless and restful, Libeskind's CJM presents a nuanced and enlightened architectural experience. Visitors will doubtless require considerable education on the geometry and meaning of the *chai*. But encouraging curiosity about a building to blossom alongside its exhibitions is certainly a positive tack to take in contemporary museum design. Given the museum's mission to connect the millennial traditions of Judaism with the contemporary culture of California, what better place to start than in a word that's imbued, to paraphrase German playwright and poet Friedrich Schiller, with the beautiful spark of God.

MITCHELL SCHWARZER IS A PROFESSOR AT CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF THE ARTS.

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PROTEST IN PASADENA continued from front page During his tenure, Art Center expanded its focus on graphic, industrial, and transportation design education and became a cultural force with multiple campuses and high-profile initiatives such as its biennial design conference.

"Over the last nine years, Richard Koshalek has exhibited dynamic and original leadership of Art Center, and we look forward to and support his continuing leadership," said board of trustees president John Puerner in a statement. "Importantly, leadership must continue to evolve to meet future challenges. Therefore, the board has decided to start the search for a new president." Art Center hopes to find a replacement for Koshalek by the end of the year.

"Upon my departure, after ten years as president of the college, I look forward with the greatest optimism to developing a series of international ideas and initiatives," said Koshalek in a separate statement. "Above all, I will continue to be unwavering in my support of and enthusiasm for the future of Art Center."

On June 18, organizers of an online petition, Education First, presented the trustees with a letter signed by over 1,400 students, faculty, and alumni demanding that work on the Gehry building be halted. The group called for funds to be devoted instead to the improvement of existing facilities, faculty support, rising tuition costs, scholarships, and recruitment. Another petition, Honesty First, in support of the building and Koshalek, had only 400 signatures.

In Puerner's statement, he acknowledged the students' demands. "Significant concerns have also been expressed about the balance between investment in current facilities, future projects, and near-term educational needs," he said, noting that the Gehry plan, among other projects, will be "reevaluated and reprioritized by the facilities and finance committees of the Board." Gehry Partners chose not to comment on the statement when contacted by AN.

Koshalek is known as a charismatic leader who came to the school in 1999 after 17 years as director of MOCA. He immediately embarked on a fundraising mission for a new master plan that included Gehry's Design Research Complex (DRC) as a centerpiece. (Alvaro Siza was also attached at one point, but was dismissed when the plan was scaled down.) According to Patricia Oliver, senior vice president of architecture and education planning, the DRC would contain a technology center, student meeting places, studios, and workshop space.

"The students seem to think we can solve these needs in this existing building," said Oliver of Craig Ellwood's 1975 black-steel box. "We cannot solve their needs within the confines of this current structure."

In 2004, a supersonic testing facility known as the Wind Tunnel was renovated by Daly Genik for \$15 million as a center for graduate and public programs. A \$35 million, privately-funded student housing building by Daly Genik will break ground this year.

One area of misconception, according to Puerner, was that the DRC had been approved by the school's board. In fact, only an initial phase including cost analysis and fundraising efforts was approved. The DRC proposal is now in the environmental impact report stage, with a meeting scheduled for July 23, and could go before the Pasadena City Council as soon as August.

The Gehry building is not universally supported by neighbors, who have bemoaned excessive traffic and overcrowded parking lots. Oliver hopes to address the concerns of angry homeowners. "They are afraid of the Gehry building because they see it as Disney Hall on the hillside," said Oliver, who once worked in Gehry's office. "We are trying to assuage their fears and explain that the building isn't designed yet."

A past president of the Linda Vista-Annandale Association, Sharon Yonashiro, agreed that even the Ellwood building was difficult for neighbors to accept. "Here comes the next generation of people who want to leave an imprint, and suddenly there's a 90-foot building in a single-family residential neighborhood," said Yonashiro. "We feel it's out-of-character and an extremely insensitive project."

A lack of communication has also frustrated those on campus, said Robert Quintero, an industrial design student who graduated this spring. He attended an environmental impact hearing on May 29 that was not advertised to students. Even though he's been at the school since 2003, he said this was the first time he had heard many details about the proposal, which had been called a library to avoid confusion. "Before I went to this meeting I had no idea what was going into that building," Quintero said. "I thought it was a real library for books."

And then there is Koshalek's longstanding friendship with Gehry. Koshalek hired Gehry to design MOCA's temporary building, now the Geffen Contemporary, and was also co-chair of the committee that picked Gehry for the Disney Concert Hall. Critics have demanded to know how much Art Center has already paid Gehry, and have accused Koshalek of cronyism.

Kevin Daly of Daly Genik, who designed the two structures for the South Campus and worked for Gehry in the 1980s, said he's surprised by the whole fracas. "Frank Gehry is someone who made his career by doing these simple industrial-inspired buildings made for artists. To imagine he doesn't have the same credentials to do this for Art Center is ridiculous," said Daly.

A longtime faculty member who agreed to speak anonymously, cautioned that it's not all about buildings. Several faculty members, including chief academic officer Nate Young and two chief financial officers, have recently resigned or been fired.

No matter how anyone feels about Koshalek's mission now, in 1999 it was clear he was hired to raise the center's profile in the design community and beyond.

"If anyone thought when they brought in Richard Koshalek that Art Center would remain quiet and self-contained on a suburban hill, they hired the wrong man," said Chee Pearlman, who served as director of Art Center's three conferences. "Richard is about breaking down provincialism in all forms and acting on big ideas."

ALISSA WALKER

Gehry's model for the Design Research Complex.

STEVEN HELLER/COURTESY GEHRY PARTNERS



LENNAR CORPORATION

BRAVE NEW WORLD

continued from front page Vancouver-based architects IBI Group, is scheduled to break ground in fall of 2009.

The 771-acre site in the southeast corner of the city is currently occupied by Monster Park (formerly Candlestick Park), which will house the San Francisco 49ers football team until 2012. The 13 parcels of land are slated to receive about 15,000 units of high-rise, mid-rise, and low-rise multi-family housing, divided into two primary clusters. Each cluster of residential development is to be anchored with a commercial retail district.

The former shipyards are also zoned for a two-million-square-foot high-tech industrial park, or possibly a new football stadium should the 49ers stay. More than half the site will become public open space, including a formal recreation area that runs the entire length of the project's shoreline.

Proposition G represents the latest in a series of initiatives proposed for the area. Beginning in 1997, the city proposed a redevelopment plan for the Hunters Point shipyards; that same year voters backed a plan for a new football stadium in adjacent Candlestick Point anchored by a mixed-use commercial project. The stadium deal eventually proved unfeasible and the city moved to combine the two sites. Lennar signed on to develop a new conceptual design that the city's Board of Supervisors approved in 2007. Because Lennar would be receiving the land from the city for free, a ballot proposition was necessary, and in cooperation with Mayor Gavin Newsom's administration, both properties were combined under

the single initiative. Lennar invested a reported \$3.4 million to promote the June election initiative. A competing measure, Proposition F, would have required half the new homes to be affordable, a suggestion that Lennar claimed would economically hobble the project.

The development agreement also reflects San Francisco's agenda for sustainable development, transit-first initiatives, diversity, and open space. Public transportation schemes are being developed, 30 percent of the housing units will still be below market rate, and building plans include accommodations for artists already living in shipyard structures. Developers are to perform environmental restoration along the bay where the site overlaps state park lands. If the 49ers opt to relocate to the city of Santa Clara, where they're currently negotiating to build a new stadium, the master plan proposes what it calls a "Clean/Green" research and development campus.

IBI Group leads a design team that includes SMWM, who designed the area's original master plan about ten years ago, with Miles Stevens and Associates, and landscape architect Walter Hood. The plan, which builds on SMWM's earlier scheme, also includes residential concepts from Solomon E.T.C. and landscape architects CMG. Several high-density housing prototypes will be considered, from San Francisco-style townhouses to more standard three- and four-story structures. Some residential architecture is already moving forward in localized developments, designed by Daniel Solomon. On Candlestick

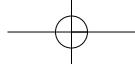
Point, the Doublerock parcel is a 28-acre site for mixed-income townhouses, a portion of which will replace the decrepit 1950s Alice Griffith public housing that currently occupies most of the parcel.

A new low-rise and mid-rise cluster of housing to be erected on a 30-acre waterfront site at Hunters Point is in the design approval stage.

CMG's ambitious open space plans led by Kevin Conger include a "green fringe" of parks along the area's shorelines, a "Hillpoint Park" located on a 90-foot-high promontory overlooking the shipyards, and a network of smaller parks. The use of pocket parks and courtyards recalls high-density neighborhoods like Russian Hill and North Beach. Even the proposed stadium parking areas are designed using an irrigated natural turf with a 95 percent compacted sub-soil for "dual use" recreation space.

Peter Vaucheret, SMWM's director of urban design, said the master plan intends to reunite Hunters Point with the city by using a grid street layout that extends evenly over hillside locations, creating a residential density consistent with nearby established neighborhoods. SMWM's master plan further enforces the open space initiative with housing types that enable porosity: mid-block breaks in the building masses allow alleyways and visual openings that link public and private spaces. Throughout the development, vantage points are also designed to give residents glimpses of downtown. Finally, it seems, residents in this once-isolated corner of San Francisco will be united with the greater city.

PAUL ADAMSON



Clockwise from top: Eight rooftop solar panels provide electricity and hot water; In the open living room with hanging fireplace and steel roof; the house at dusk; one of two small courtyards and large overhangs for shading.

It's hot, dry, brown, and dusty—and for some, a personal paradise. Welcome to the California high desert, where a pair of Los Angeles-based architects, Linda Taalman and Alan Koch, have finished construction on their own 1,100-square-foot getaway.

An experiment in hands-on minimalism, the house sits on a remote five-acre site in Pioneertown—just beyond the northwestern boundary of Joshua Tree National Park—and two hours east of Los Angeles. A husband and wife team, Taalman and Koch bought the land in 2006, and with the help of friends and family, built much of the house themselves.

It's a project they had been contemplating since moving their design firm, Taalman Koch Architecture, to Los Angeles from New York five years ago. The couple, who met at Cornell and founded OpenOffice arts + architecture, relocated shortly after completing the design and renovation of the Dia:Beacon museum in Beacon, New York, in 2003. Their move west was precipitated by a desire to experiment with new building materials and construction techniques, and to have a more direct role in seeing buildings they had designed come to life.

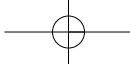
The Off-grid iT house is the result of the couple's latest experiment in mixing prefabricated and on-site construction techniques. The aluminum framing, steel roof, cabinets, and 3-form bathroom walls arrived ready to install, while the concrete foundation and electrical and plumbing systems were fabricated to meet site-specific needs.

Since the house is two miles away from the nearest electric tower, Taalman and Koch engineered an off-the-grid power system that includes eight solar panels, four of which are on the roof and provide electricity, while two additional panels serve as the house's solar water heater.

A sizable overhang shades rectilinear floor-to-ceiling windows, some of which are patterned with a vinyl decal grid that functions both as a shading device and a privacy screen. The strategy for enclosing the living quarters is equally low-tech: the bedroom area is nestled between a small hill and a cluster of acacia trees. A pair of outdoor courtyards completes the rectangular floor plan, creating the same sense of easy indoor/outdoor living popularized by modernist architects working in California during the 1950s and '60s.

The house was designed as a kit around a modular floor plan, with open sections that can be shifted or mirrored to meet the client's space and privacy needs. Taalman is unsentimental about the notion of site specificity, believing, as many modernists did, that architecture can become more accessible by way of being more generic and, in turn, more easily reproduced. The iT house may seem one-of-a-kind, but the firm has built three others just like it in Villa Park, Paso Robles, and Three Rivers, near Sequoia National Park.

"The idea of the house is that 'iT' can be whatever one wants it to be, it's up to you to fill in the blanks," explained Taalman. **JULIE KIM**



THE ARCHITECT'S NEWSPAPER JULY 16, 2008



COURTESY RESPECTIVE MANUFACTURERS

THE GAP CONTINUES TO CLOSE BETWEEN FURNITURE FOR PUBLIC AND FOR PRIVATE, FOR OFFICE AND FOR HOME. AS A SELECTION OF HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MONTH'S NEOCON EXHIBITION IN CHICAGO SHOWS, EVEN THE SOPHISTICATED CAN GET TOUGH.

THE SMART SET

1 ACUITY

At this point, topping the Aeron Chair is pure spectator sport, and while the new Acuity Chair from Allsteel is ergonomically almost identical, it can boast a more glamorous tailored silhouette thanks to European-level craft detailing. And top this: Not only are 90 percent of its materials recyclable, but Allsteel is using wind power for the chair's assembly.
www.allsteeloffice.com

2 HERRINGBONE STRIPE BY PAUL SMITH

From fashion to furniture, from office to home, the lifelines become colorful when British fashion designer Paul Smith gets involved. Smith's bespoke barcode stripe now adorns a sturdy Maharam wool in upholstery weight and contract-performance quality. Available in a brown, navy, and heathered gray herringbone, it will lend any corporate office unimpeachable sartorial flair.
www.maharam.com

3 TULIP-SIXTY

Designed by Jeffrey Bernett for B&B Italia, this chrome wire, sled-based armchair—also available with spoke legs—is a contract market edition of the popular swiveling Tulip first introduced in 1999. The new Tulip offers a more subtle take on the retro bucket, resulting in a family of compatible but diverse seating options for office or home.
www.bandbitalia.com

4 CH100 SERIES SOFA

The Danish chair master Hans Wegner was ahead of his time when he designed the CH100 Series Sofa in 1970 for both contract and residential markets, maintaining a luxury level in both materials and craftsmanship (even the undersides of cushions are stitched leather). With originals from the 12-piece collection showing up rarely at auction, Wegner Studio chose Carl Hansen & Son to reintroduce the flat stainless steel and full-down upholstery sofa, distributed by Coalesse, in 2008.
www.coalesse.com

5 COGNITA

With an eye to reigniting the glory days of its innovative past, Herman Miller commissioned four design firms to think hard about office space in the home. Minneapolis-based Blu Dot came up with a riff on the blanket chest-credenza-filing cabinet, called Cognita. With a top surface that's part upholstered and part walnut veneer, storage below can swing between high-density hanging files or linens, while a hinged top conceals an office-supply tray. It's clever enough to make even Charles and Ray jealous.
www.hermanmiller.com

6 TOGETHER BENCH

Coalesse is at the vanguard of mixing it up between home, hotel, office, and boardroom. A division of the office furniture giant Steelcase, the brand is focused on flexible lifestyle furnishings. Part corner banquet, part bench, and all sleekly upholstered, the Together Bench designed by Vienna-based EOOS is a prime example of this contemporary mindset.
www.coalesse.com

FRAME SWEET FRAME

In late June, the Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Design announced that LA firm Oyler Wu Collaborative had won its LINER competition, to outfit the Forum's newly acquired headquarters at 6520 Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles. The Forum's roughly 1,000-square-foot storefront space and gallery, which they will occupy by early fall, is located on the ground floor of Woodbury University's Hollywood Center for Community Research and Design. Oyler Wu's \$7,500 project, Pendulum Plane, which the firm describes as an "intricate ceiling system," will consist of a series of sixteen 40 x 90-inch hinged and counterbalanced aluminum frames that can swivel into a variety of positions to accommodate different types of exhibitions, lectures, and other activities.

BACK FROM THE ASHES

Seven months after a devastating wildfire gutted much of the famous Malibu Presbyterian Church, the congregation has selected Dominy + Associates Architects of San Diego to design a new building for the two-acre hillside site along Malibu Canyon Road near Pepperdine University. The architects have built several other churches in San Diego, Irvine, and Tarzana.

GOOD TIMES FOR MALTZAN

Michael Maltzan Architecture (MMA) announced two major commissions in June. The firm was selected by San Francisco State University to design its new Creative Arts Center, which will house SF State's programs in broadcast and electronic communication arts, music, dance, and theater. The building will include a new 1,200-seat theater, little theater, black box theater, music recital hall, and choral and orchestral rehearsal spaces. MMA was also selected to design The Nine Muses, a new riverfront amphitheater in New Orleans, as part of that city's *Reinventing The Crescent* plan to restore life to the city's waterfront. Other architects selected for the redevelopment scheme include David Adjaye, Hargreaves Associates, and Eskew+Dumez+Ripple.

BACK ON THE PIER

Santa Monica unveiled its brand new Ferris wheel in late May. The \$1.5 million structure, manufactured by Chance Morgan in Wichita, Kansas, stands 130 feet above the Pacific Ocean. It features 20 gondolas with a maximum of six riders per car, accommodating up to 600 riders per hour.

PERSHING FIX-UP REJECTED

On July 2, the LA City Council voted to veto a \$190,000 renovation that would have added grass and exercise equipment to Pershing Square's Palm Court. Located on the northeast corner of the park, Palm Court is home to the park's collection of statues. The LA City Park commissioners had voted for the renovation earlier this year, but in June the city council asserted its jurisdiction over the park.

THE GREEN MUSEUMS

The Water + Life Museums in Hemet, CA were recently awarded Platinum LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), becoming California's first LEED Platinum museums. The low-lying, rectilinear complex, designed by Lehrer + Gangi Design + Build, was inspired by the giant infrastructure works in the area, including a dam at adjacent Diamond Valley Lake. Green elements include multiple solar shielding techniques, a huge PV panel array, and radiant floor heating and cooling.

ARCHITECTS HONORED

Frank Gehry will be awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement in architecture at the 11th International Architecture Biennale in Venice, opening on September 14. Architect Tom Kundig, a partner at Seattle-based Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen, was awarded the 2008 Cooper Hewitt Design Award for Architecture. Other finalists for the award were firms LOT-EK and Weiss/Manfredi.

HUNTINGTON OVERHAUL

The Myron Hunt-designed Huntington Gallery recently reopened after a two-year, \$20 million restoration by Irwindale-based Earl Corp. and San Francisco preservation firm Architectural Resources Group. The gallery is housed in a Beaux Arts mansion, completed in 1911 for Henry Huntington to display his art treasures. The restoration includes new lighting, mechanical systems, and surface treatments as well as new entrances, slightly re-ordered spaces, and two new upstairs galleries.

JOINING FORCES

Dan Meis of Meis Architects announced that he will merge his practice with international architecture firm Aedas. Meis is best known as the designer of Los Angeles' Staples Center, Seattle's Safeco Field, and Cincinnati's Paul Brown Stadium. Aedas has offices in over 15 countries.



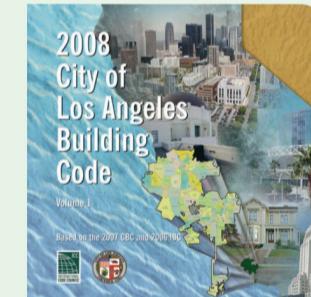
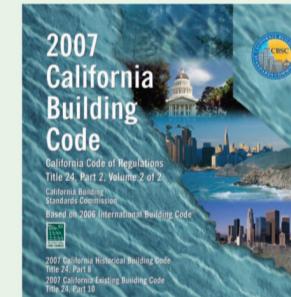
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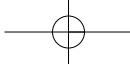


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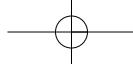
*The 2007 Codes for the State of California are based on the 2003 International Codes®.



The modern dream of the readymade has carried prefab far since it was first imagined over 100 years ago, but now with the pressure to be all things to all people—green, luxurious, and even one-of-a-kind, *Kimberly Stevens* wonders if prefab can ever live up to its own potential.



CAN PREFAB DELIVER?



KAA Design is teaming with a major builder to produce its HOM prefab homes (opposite page, top and below). Marmol Radziner Prefab's new standardized Rincon units (below) can complement a home.

There's nothing new about prefab—in fact, it's often referred to as modern architecture's "oldest new idea." But in its current trendiness—widespread glitzy press coverage and the benediction of a major new exhibit scheduled to open at MoMA in New York on July 20—a handful of architects, investors, large firms, and real estate brokers are still trying to prove that the concept can live up to its hype.

Historically, the idea of prefabricated building systems has always seemed fresh and of-the-moment. In 1892, Ernest Franklin Hodgson developed a prefabricated building system to sell chicken coops, dog-houses, tool sheds, and small summer cottages. Eventually, he introduced larger homes and garages, a concept met with intense excitement. Later, in 1906, Aladdin Readi-Cut Houses produced a kit house of pre-cut pieces. But the real hit came in 1908, when Sears & Roebuck developed the wildly popular "House By Mail" program that took the nation by storm. By 1940, when the program ended, the company had sold over 100,000 units. The fervor for prefab was captured in *One Week*, starring Buster Keaton in 1923, in which a

newlywed couple builds their own prefab home with comic results.

Today there is once again a sense of excitement and curiosity as modern prefab architecture returns to the mainstream, rescued from its stigma as cheap or even mobile housing by a new wave of well-designed units. Innovative new ideas have popped up in large numbers, ranging from Ecoshack's prefab yurts and the Katrina Cottages for Gulf Coast hurricane victims to prefab homes by the furniture company Design Within Reach. But there's also intense scrutiny and skepticism surrounding prefab, or modular or factory housing, as it's otherwise called. Some argue that while prefab is touted for its ability to be mass-produced, it's delivered to relatively few. Others note that while it promises affordability, modern prefab is often expensive (for example, California developer Steve Glenn's much-publicized Living Homes, with designs by Ray Kappe and Kieran Timberlake, generally average well over \$200 per square foot). More question marks surround such issues as durability, comfort, and variety. For the architect entrepreneur looking to sell prefab as a business, it remains unclear if

it's possible to turn a profit. For the time being, as prefab units rise in cost, dividends remain small because few houses have been widespread sellers.

"I just think the whole thing is a false promise," said Los Angeles realtor Brian Linder. "They're very difficult to sell. There's nothing low-cost about them. Until someone like Honda or Toyota gets involved, I don't think it's going anywhere."

Allison Arieff, author of *Prefab* (2003), said that people designing 7,000-square-foot prefabs might as well do stick-built. "Prefab for the sake of prefab isn't going anywhere; that would just continue what some have called 'the curse of the prototype,' whereby a great one-off house is built, but no others follow."

Still, Arieff predicts that architects who can master the practical side of prefab—factories, mass production, shipping, and, of course, marketing—will thrive in the future. And architects, while committed to proving critics wrong about prefab, are also trying their hardest to make the system worth their while, design-wise. One California firm that stands out in the quest to effectively exploit the rise in consumer interest toward prefab is

Marmol Radziner Prefab, a division of Los Angeles-based Marmol Radziner Associates. The firm has a local factory to manufacture and package high-end, modern steel-frame houses and has even established a blog on prefab. The advantage, said firm principal Leo Marmol, is that prefab allows the firm to "tackle the inefficiencies involved with site-built construction, including weather and subcontractor delays, runaway costs, and excessive material waste."

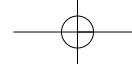
After the success of their first prototype, the 2005 Desert House, and having built over 20 custom prefab homes in all possible configurations and sitings, the firm has now taken their work to the "next level" with standardized models: the multi-module Skyline and single module Rincon series, both of which begin at about \$180,000 (although Marmol notes that all prefab homes are notoriously hard to price accurately because of the varied costs involved). All have large decks to maximize outdoor living (although these can be enclosed for colder climates), and use natural cooling, solar panels, and steel frame construction. Extra materials, say the firm, are recycled in their factory. The firm is also hoping to take on the next frontier of prefab: mass production. Marmol, who calls mass-produced prefab "the holy grail of prefab," claimed that it would offer similar benefits to developers and homebuilders as it does to consumers, like the ability to fix the price of the construction process and deliver homes with shorter schedules, reducing carrying costs.

Only time will tell whether Marmol's pitch to the homebuilder industry works. One architect, Oakland-based Michelle Kaufmann, is already having success in prefab mass production. Her firm Michelle Kaufmann Design (MKD), which had established itself with individual prefab models like the mkLoft and mkSolaire, is now working with home builders to create prefab communities like SolTerra, a 24-unit multifamily project in San Leandro, California, set to be completed this fall; and Denver Townhomes, an 80-unit townhouse development outside of Denver with a mix of two- and three-bedroom, multi-story homes that will be completed next year. The project features contemporary-style units built with eco-friendly materials, and includes shared parks and green systems like geothermal energy. Prices for these homes, which Kaufmann describes as "healthy, beautiful, and cost-effective," range from about \$100 to \$200 per square foot.

Architects and designers are also coming up with ways to make the prefab building process more seamless. Brian Adolph, an architect



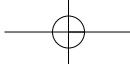
COURTESY MARMOL RADZINER PREFAB

FEATURE
14

THE ARCHITECT'S NEWSPAPER JULY 16, 2008

Office of Mobile Design has ventured into prefab school production with its Country School in Valley Village, California (top). Marmol Radziner Prefab's Desert House prototype (2005, below) is an example of how upscale the movement has gone.





Philadelphia architects Kieran Timberlake Associates joined with Santa Monica-based LivingHomes to create prefab multi-housing units (top) and a single family residence that can expand from 900 to 2,000 square feet (below).

with the LA-based KAA Design Group, said his company looked to combine unique design with not-so-unique prefab production methods in developing its HOM units, which are simple, high-quality units meant to merge indoor and outdoor living. Instead of developing its own factory, KAA teamed with a long-established prefab building company (KAA is in final negotiations with the company, so they would not reveal

its name) that already has outlets across the country. Their models average about \$200 per square foot. "We wanted to come up with a system that could truly deliver in mass. To marry these two industries (architecture and manufacturing) and get over the stigma of the manufactured model," he said.

Other prefab architects are venturing into new building types to try to find their own "holy grail."

Jennifer Siegal, principal at Office of Mobile Design (OMD), has worked on numerous modern prefab homes, including a project that she parked along Abbot Kinney Boulevard in Venice, California that she uses as her showroom. Siegal recently shifted gears and started working on modern prefab schools, which she thinks might be another wave of the future. She was awarded a grant from Southern

California Edison in 1998 to help rethink the portable classrooms built in LA. Working with her students at Woodbury University, she developed Sustainable Portables, classrooms based on prefab modules that used less energy, were built with more sustainable materials, and had a more contemporary aesthetic. Since then, her firm has completed its own school projects including the Country School Prefab Expansion in Valley Village, California; the mobile ECOLAB; and the Portable Construction Training Center in Venice. Like all of her projects, the classrooms are designed to "be easily described visually and intellectually to new clients," Siegal said, and to "help clients make choices more quickly, since we've limited their options due to the building systems and pre-selected material finishes."

Yet limited options are not a plus for all clients. If prefab really does reach its factory-model potential, the balance between standardization and customization is destined to become an important issue. Empyrean International, which manufactured Dwell Homes, a collection of ultra-modern prefab units in 2005, is now working on a 50-unit prefab project in the U.K. along with a program to collaborate with specific architects to create customized prefab homes. The company's CEO, Patrick Gilhane, said the firm offers nine standard plans with the potential of 32 different outcomes. "The homeowner wants something more unique and specialized," he said. "The most promising thing I'm seeing in prefab is the sheer number of new projects that bring new and innovative ideas to the table. That's why I think this is going to be a long-term trend."

Barry Bergdoll, MoMA's architecture and design curator, chose the subject of prefabricated design as his first show, called *Home Delivery*. In the empty lot next to the museum, five houses by architects including Kieran Timberlake; Douglas Gauthier and Jeremy Edminston; and Horden Cherry Lee Architects will be built and ready to tour. "I am most interested in the people that are pushing the design envelope," he said. But he admitted to thinking that the firms taking a more pragmatic approach to prefab and going with the tried-and-true technology will probably succeed more quickly. One of his favorite designs in the show is Kieran Timberlake's aluminum-framed Cellophane House, which is being constructed from reusable materials. "They span the pragmatic, but are also theorizing the entire framework of prefab design," he said. And that combination of the prosaic and the poetic may well be the ultimate promise of prefab.

KIMBERLY STEVENS IS A REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR TO AN.



COURTESY KIERAN TIMBERLAKE ASSOCIATES

THE ARCHITECT'S NEWSPAPER JULY 16, 2008

JULY/AUGUST 2008

JULY

THURSDAY 17
EXHIBITION OPENING
AIA/LA 2008 Design Awards
Architecture and
Design Museum
5900 Wilshire Blvd.
www.aplusd.org

EVENT
New Original Works
Festival 2008
8:30 p.m.
Roy and Edna Disney/
CalArts Theater
631 West 2nd St.,
Los Angeles
www.redcat.org

FRIDAY 18
EXHIBITION OPENING
Jane Aaron, Michael Brown,
Mark Esper, et al.
Light Walks: A Homage
to Exploratorium Light Artist
Bob Miller
Exploratorium
3601 Lyon St., San Francisco
www.exploratorium.edu

FILM
Diamonds are Forever
(Guy Hamilton, 1971),
120 min.
7:00 p.m.
The Hammer Museum
10899 Wilshire Blvd.,
Los Angeles
www.hammer.ucla.edu

SATURDAY 19
EXHIBITION OPENINGS
Kori Newkirk
Miguel Angel Rios
LAXART
2640 South La Cienega Blvd.
www.laxart.org

Laguna College
MFA Group Show
Koplin Del Rio Gallery
6031 Washington Blvd.,
Culver City
www.koplindelrio.com

Shawn Barber
Billy Shire Fine Arts
5790 Washington Blvd.,
Culver City
www.billyshirefinearts.com

EVENTS
Neutra VDL Studio
and Residences
11:00 a.m.
2300 Silver Lake Blvd.,
Los Angeles
www.neutra-vdl.org

Glow
7:00 p.m.
Santa Monica Pier,
Santa Monica
www.smgov.net/smarts/glow/

SUNDAY 20
EXHIBITION OPENING
La Tinta Grita/
The Ink Shoots:
The Art of Social Resistance
in Oaxaca, Mexico
Fowler Museum of Art
308 Charles East Young Dr.,
Los Angeles
www.fowler.ucla.edu

WITH THE KIDS

Animal Estates
11:00 a.m.
San Francisco Museum of
Modern Art
151 3rd St., San Francisco
www.sfmoma.org

TUESDAY 22

LECTURE
Glenn R. Bell
Architecture and Tomorrow's
Building Engineering:
Leading a New Design
Paradigm for the Twenty-
First Century and Beyond
5:30 p.m.
AIA San Francisco
130 Sutter St., San Francisco
www.aiasf.org

WEDNESDAY 23

EXHIBITION OPENING
Richard Diebenkorn, Artist,
and Carey Stanton, Collector:
Their Stanford Collection
Cantor Arts Center
328 Lomita Dr., Stanford
www.museum.stanford.edu

THURSDAY 24

EXHIBITION OPENING
Denice Bartels,
Jennifer Ceilo, et al.
In the Eye of the Beholder
Lewis Stern Fine Arts
9002 Melrose Ave., West
Hollywood
www.louissternfinearts.com

FRIDAY 25

LECTURE
Michael Auping
Bad Light: Bruce Nauman's
Luminosity
7:00 p.m.
Museum of Contemporary
Art of San Diego
700 Prospect St., La Jolla
www.mcasd.org

SATURDAY 26

EXHIBITION OPENINGS
Jeremy Blake, Mungo
Thomson, Enid Baxter Blader,
et al.

California Scenarios
Orange Lounge
South Coast Plaza
3333 Bear St., Costa Mesa
www.ocma.net

LOOKY SEE: A SUMMER SHOW

Otis College of
Art and Design
Ben Maltz Gallery
9045 Lincoln Blvd.,
Los Angeles
www.otis.edu

SUNDAY 27

LECTURE
Michael Duncan
The Spectacular
Wrath of Saul: Peter Saul's
History Paintings
2:00 p.m.
Orange County Museum
of Art
850 San Clemente Dr.,
Newport Beach
www.ocma.net

EXHIBITION OPENING

Tomma Abts
Hammer Museum
10899 Wilshire Blvd.,
Los Angeles
www.hammer.ucla.edu

EVENT

Architecture Tour:
Focus on John Lautner
MAK Center for Art and
Architecture
835 North Kings Road,
West Hollywood
www.makcenter.org

WITH THE KIDS

Artist as Innovator
12:30 p.m.
Los Angeles County
Museum of Art
5905 Wilshire Blvd.,
Los Angeles
www.lacma.org

MONDAY 28

EXHIBITION OPENING
Carrie Marill
newfoundland
Sixspace
5803 Washington Blvd.,
Culver City
www.sixspace.com

THURSDAY 31

EXHIBITION OPENING
Transparencies
Braunstein/Quay Gallery
430 Clementina, San
Francisco
www.bquayartgallery.com

AUGUST

FRIDAY 1
EXHIBITION OPENINGS
Iwamoto Scott Architecture
SCI-Arc
960 East 3rd St.,
Los Angeles
www.sciarc.edu

Zilvinas Kempinas,
Alyson Shotz, Mary Temple
New Work
San Francisco Museum
of Modern Art
151 3rd St., San Francisco
www.sfmoma.org

SATURDAY 2

EXHIBITION OPENING
Yoko Ono
Armory Center for the Arts
145 North Raymond Ave.,
Pasadena
www.armoryarts.org

SUNDAY 3

EXHIBITION OPENING
Eleanor Antin,
Uta Barth, et al.
Memory is Your
Image of Perfection
Museum of Contemporary
Art of San Diego
1001 Kettner Blvd., San Diego
www.mcasd.org

TUESDAY 5

EXHIBITION OPENING
Bernini and the Birth of
Baroque Portrait Sculpture
The J. Paul Getty Center
1200 Getty Center Dr.,
Los Angeles
www.getty.edu

WEDNESDAY 6

EXHIBITION OPENING
Clare Haggarty &
Andrew Tosello
Little Tree Gallery
3412 22nd St., San Francisco
www.littletreegallery.com

THURSDAY 7

EXHIBITION OPENING
Grecian Taste and
Roman Spirit: The Society
of Dilettanti
The J. Paul Getty Villa
17985 Pacific Coast Hwy.,
Pacific Palisades
www.getty.edu

SATURDAY 9

EXHIBITION OPENINGS
C. Ryder Cooley, Christine
Shields, and Lena Wolff
Julie Baker Fine Art
246 Commercial St.,
Nevada City
www.juliebakerfineart.com

Roger Herman, Derek
Boshier, Leslie Kneisel, et al.
“narratives of the perverse”
NO ONE UNDER 18
Jancar Gallery
3875 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1308,
Los Angeles
www.jancargallery.com

WITH THE KIDS
Plastic Hunks and Chunks
10:00 a.m.
Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave.,
Santa Monica
www.smoma.org

SUNDAY 10
EXHIBITION OPENINGS
Angela Cartwright
A Studio Gallery
4260 Lankershim Blvd.,
Studio City
www.astudiogallery.com

Silver Seduction:
The Art of Mexican
Modernist Antonio Pineda
Fowler Museum of Art
308 Charles East Young Dr.,
Los Angeles
www.fowler.ucla.edu

TUESDAY 12
EXHIBITION OPENING
Faces of Power and Piety:
Medieval Portraiture
The J. Paul Getty Center
1200 Getty Center Dr.,
Los Angeles
www.getty.edu

SUNDAY 17
EXHIBITION OPENING
Mark Dion,
Ann Hamilton, et al.
Human/Nature:
Artists Respond to
a Changing Planet
Museum of Contemporary
Art of San Diego
1001 Kettner Blvd., San Diego
www.mcasd.org

TUESDAY 19
TRADE SHOW
West Coast Interiors Expo:
Windows on the West
Through August 21
San Diego Convention Center
111 West Harbor Dr.,
San Diego
www.interiorexpo.com

SATURDAY 23
EXHIBITION OPENING
SK8OLOGY:
Fine Art on Skateboards
ISM Gallery
540 East Broadway,
Long Beach
www.ismcommunity.org



COURTESY MONTEREY MUSEUM

AMERICAN HORIZONS:
THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF ART SINSABAUGH
Monterey Museum of Art
720 Via Mirada, Monterey
Through September 7

In the 1960s, just as America's agricultural heritage was slipping away, photographer Art Sinsabaugh took it all in with his camera: from rural Midwestern farms to the urban cityscapes of Chicago and Baltimore. From the mountains and resorts of New England to the barren deserts of the Southwest. Organized by the Indiana University Art Museum and traveling throughout the United States, *American Horizons* is the first complete survey of Sinsabaugh's work to date. Through his lens, Sinsabaugh critically examined the visual possibilities of the American landscape. Pursuing the interaction between human beings and the land through structures in nature—silos, bridges, highways, homes, skyscrapers, trees, and gravestones—Sinsabaugh captured the liminal spaces between the rural and the urban that most of us call home. In the over 85 photographs included, the exhibition surveys all aspects of Sinsabaugh's career, from his early design studies through his late work in the American Southwest. Special emphasis is placed on his two most important series, the Midwest landscape group (1961–1963), and the Chicago landscape group (1964–1966), including the *Chicago Landscape #66* (1964, above).



COURTESY SFMOMA

246 AND COUNTING:
RECENT ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN ACQUISITIONS
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
151 3rd Street, San Francisco
Through January 4, 2009

A compilation of recent architecture and design acquisitions made by Henry Urbach, the Helen Hilton Raiser Curator of Architecture and Design at SFMOMA, the exhibition features a collection of 246 pieces of industrial design objects, books, posters, photographs, and furniture, as well as architectural drawings and models. Among the standout works by architects, designers, and artists is Eliot Noyes' model *Westinghouse 1964 New York World's Fair Pavilion, Flushing Meadow, New York* (1961). Also on view are Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa/SANAA's *Tea and Coffee Tower* (2003, above) and Jack W. Stauffacher's graphic portfolio *The Rebel Albert Camus: Twenty-five Typographic Meditations* (1969). Displaying the works in order by acquisition date, Urbach aims to demystify the process of collecting, while offering a glimpse into his own curatorial philosophy. Continuing through the end of the year, the exhibition will also spotlight additional works as they are brought into the collection.

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A jet bursting through the sound barrier, from Kwinter's essay "Mach 1 (and Other Mystic Visitations)." COURTESY U.S. NAVY PHOTOGRAPHER ENSIGN JOHN GAY

THE AUDACITY OF ARCHITECTURE

Far From Equilibrium: Essays on Technology and Design Culture
By Sanford Kwinter
Actar Press, \$33.00

Architecture critic and professor Sanford Kwinter's new book *Far From Equilibrium* is a collection of new and previously published writings dating from the mid-90s, most of them first printed in the journal *ANY*, covering topics as far-ranging as Buckminster Fuller's legacy and Peter Eisenman's Holocaust memorial in Berlin. Kwinter, who has written several books and teaches design at Rice University's School of Architecture, claims that the compilation illuminates what

has always been his own stated approach to architectural criticism: "audacity without irony."

Kwinter's audacity as a critic has never been in doubt. His central argument has always been that true architecture lies in the social, physical, and temporal organization of the city and the landscape—not in discrete buildings. And Kwinter has always defended his stance aggressively by launching proclamations like missiles that soar swiftly to the heart of the mat-

ter. The new book is saturated with lines characteristic of his rhetorical force. Of his refusal to attend the opening of Frank Gehry's Bilbao Museum and his decision to instead journey to the desert with architect Jesse Reiser to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of Chuck Yeager's breaking of the sound barrier, Kwinter writes: "We came because we believe in shock waves, we believe them to be part of the music of modernity; not something to watch a ribbon be cut from, but something to feel with our diaphragms, eardrums, genitals, and the soles of our feet... We came because out there somewhere we knew was the zero-degree and the future, and that in Bilbao was the past."

Kwinter and his editors at Actar have put his propensity for audacious manifestos to task using the format of a "mini-essay" insert: fold-out pages wedged between the book's primary essays containing full-bleed images alongside

short textual blurbs that maintain the force of the longer pieces. In his mini-essay "The Mechanical Bride Stripped Bare of her Bachelors," Kwinter lauds Diller + Scofidio (now Diller, Scofidio + Renfro) for defining architecture as "the logic that determines our routines of inhabiting the world," and therefore finding it to "exist at the level of buildings only in the most secondary of ways." Kwinter here claims that the design team has long understood that technology, in its social deployment, serves to cultivate the desires and regulate the behavior of its users.

This mini-essay intimates in two paragraphs the same admonition that runs throughout the book: Kwinter sees technology as a tool for conditioning the modern citizen—a mechanism for making routine our desires and habits while subjecting us to a regime of surveillance. He warns us that we are too often led to see technological development as an alluring and satisfying sign of an ever-ambiguous "progress." In a longer essay, "The Wiring and Waning of the World," written in 1994 before the author even had an email address, Kwinter forebodingly characterizes the then-upcoming digital revolution as "an unbridled invasion and seizure of power of the public sphere, of the modalities of the human perceptual apparatus, of human energy, and of the interdependent historical ecologies that together these three entail."

But it is just the effrontery of these mini-essays that leads the reader to ask if there isn't a kind of irony in Kwinter's "audacity" after all—an absurdity in the bombastic rhetoric, the book's flashy red cover, the sexy images and so many seemingly flippant manifestos. The reader may ask, can architecture take Sanford Kwinter seriously?

With essays like "The Avant-Garde in America," Kwinter dispels such skepticism. Adeptly drawing on references as diverse as philosopher Alfred North Whitehead and

Max Weber, Kwinter sketches a history of how the organizing principles of bureaucratic control informed the American architectural mindset in the 20th century. He posits that in the 1930s, when American architects first attempted to bring the International Style to the American architectural landscape, they mistakenly overlooked the ideological program driving European modernism. American architecture, Kwinter writes, instead assimilated "the progressive modernist research that was inseparable from Europe's struggle to emancipate itself from traditional forms of social domination to the pragmatic but predatory logic of the emerging international corporate agenda." In consequence, American architecture has yet to see a true socially avant-garde movement.

Kwinter's compilation is summed up succinctly in his essay, "Formal, Informal, and the Jewish Question," when he responds to Peter Eisenman's inquiry, "Can form be defined politically?" with the quip, "When has it not been?" Kwinter repeatedly establishes that architectural and technological developments are intertwined with the mechanisms of social control, much to the obliviousness of their users—and even their designers. The first image in the book, a striking color photograph of former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, places an unquestionably real dimension on the bold manifestos negating technomania and globally marketable iconic buildings like Gehry's in Bilbao, suggesting that these retired writings from the 90s raging against the machine and the institution are all the more pertinent in the post-2001 political climate. *Far From Equilibrium* is an invaluable reminder of what avant-gardism is, published for a generation that risks growing too cynical for it.

IZABEL GASS IS THE FOUNDING EDITOR OF MANIFOLD, A JOURNAL OF AESTHETIC PHILOSOPHY.

DESIGN, ITALIAN STYLE

Roberto Sambonet
Palazzo Madama, Torino
www.palazzomadama
torino.it

This year, Turin, Italy has been designated the World Capital of Design. From June 29 through July 3, leading international architects, critics, and designers converged on this northern Italian city

to speak at *Transmitting Architecture: XXIII World Congress of the International Union of Architects*. The themes for the congress highlight culture, democracy, and hope, and the list of participants was international, including Barry Bergdoll, Mario Bellini, Will Alsop, Kengo Kuma, Aaron Betsky, Winy Maas, Dominique Perrault, Paolo Soleri, Peter Eisenman, Massimiliano Fuksas, and Hani Rashid.

Already on display at the Palazzo Madama, a 13th-century castle in the city center, is a thoughtful retrospective of an artist-designer whose diverse achievements engage some of the themes of the

congress at a particularly high level. One of Piemonte's own, Roberto Sambonet was most notable for his painting, graphic arts, packaging, and cookware produced for the Sambonet family factory starting in the 1950s.

Sambonet was born in 1924 in Vercelli, a town between Milan and Turin. Although he began his career studying architecture at the polytechnic in Milan, the exhibition is crammed with indigenous artifacts that include masks, portraits of Milan's artistic and intellectual circle such as Ettore Sottsass and Gae Aulenti, and mass-produced design objects from the 1950s and

1970s. Curated by Enrico Morteo, the show is divided into several sections, exploring the man and his artistic vision. Sambonet traveled extensively, studying native cultures in Brazil, China, Thailand, Mexico, and India. On exhibit are his collection of straw hats, walking sticks, and textiles from Brazil.

Another section is comprised of ink drawings and watercolors of friends and fellow architects, including Alvar Aalto and Louis Kahn. According to designer Lella Vignelli, Sambonet was an excellent draftsman who took portrait-making seriously. After completing a portrait of her husband Massimo

Vignelli during a visit to New York, Sambonet returned a year later to rework it. No elitist, Sambonet took care to channel his creative spirit into products that could be mass-produced. His obsession with elementary geometry, the paintings of Sonia

Delaunay, and ancient-inspired forms are showcased in his designs for crystal glassware for Baccarat and metal cutlery and cookware for his family's company, Sambonet. The designer's *Pesciera*, a pod-like

continued on page 19



COURTESY PALAZZO MADAMA

THE ARCHITECT'S NEWSPAPER JULY 16, 2008



DUELING PARTNERS

Architect and Engineer: A Study of Sibling Rivalry
Andrew Saint
Yale University Press, \$65.00

"If there is a moral to the story of the [Millennium] bridge," writes Andrew Saint, "it is that the strands of art and engineering run parallel, often intertwine creatively, but in the last analysis are distinct. They should remain so and be seen to be so." In his encyclopedic survey *Architect and Engineer: A Study in Sibling Rivalry*, Saint weaves these strands in a web that is always instructive and enjoyable, if in the end without a clear pattern. The "sibling" metaphor may lead one to expect a pattern, but Saint admits at the start that the reader "may feel in want of a clear thread." Why sibling? Why not married? Or parallel? Are violinists and pianists siblings? Actors and directors? Painters and sculptors? As one who has practiced for some time as a structural engineer, I don't see that architects are any more my sisters than sculptors are my brothers. Rather, I find that in professional practices like acting and directing, writing and engineering, we operate in that material and social practice for the necessary time, then step out. Saint quotes the British engineer

Anthony Hunt referring to "the engineer in me," a role, not the whole. One of the pleasures of contemporary culture is the versatile vigor of some of its protean characters. Think Clint Eastwood, George Clooney, Miles Davis, or David Byrne. We may lack equivalent figures in architecture and engineering, at least since Charles and Ray Eames, but that doesn't mean versatility is not possible.

Saint divides his book into distinct topical chapters: Imperial Works and Worthy Kings; Iron; Concrete; Bridges; Reconciliation; and A Question of Upbringing. Each section is a beautifully illustrated article on the history of approaches to practice, material, or type as far back as the 17th century. There are many wonderful surprises, from the works and ideas of the French bridge engineers Emiland-Marie Gauthey and Paul Séjourné to Le Corbusier's under-appreciated collaborator, Vladimir Bodiansky. In the section Reconciliation, Saint gives an excellent historical account of the post-war British and American structural engineering scene, but says little about the contribution of mechan-

ical engineers as of the mid-1960s. Tom Barker, the partner and collaborator to Peter Rice and Renzo Piano, goes unmentioned, as does the natural ventilation and other building services developments that are detailed in Reyner Banham's *The Architecture of the Well Tempered Environment* (1969), which have only become more relevant since then. The "engineer" of this book is the structural engineer of bridges and buildings, and his or her contribution is to the visual arts of architecture and engineering. But also, as Saint freely acknowledges, there is only a modest attempt at a theoretical or philosophical overview.

There are a few tantalizing suggestions. Quoting some by Saint:

"What mattered was an architect's ability to open eyes and raise the game by articulating a technical challenge in the language of art."

"The architect harnesses known techniques to perfectionist ends, while the engineer forwards technology, often leaving the details of his work rough."

"The further a structure departs from logic and

Cast iron pieces of Paris' Gare du Nord at the engineer's shop in Glasgow.

economy, the less reasonable, objective and truly dialectical becomes the relationship between the architect and engineer."

Not to mention other gems, such as this one from Mies van der Rohe: "Wherever technology reaches its real fulfillment, it transcends into architecture."

And Guy de Maupassant: "When you see an engineer, take a gun and shoot him," and "The engineer instinctively goes for the ugly, as the duck makes for water."

Perhaps the reason that Saint chose the "sibling" analogy is to resist the obvious dualism of many of these suggestions: body/mind, matter/spirit, art/science, architect/engineer. The family connection runs counter to that absolute dialectic. My preference is to look elsewhere for analogies, to music or film, where there are tribal connections that are neither dualistic nor kin-based. The architect-engineer-builder-user-client tribe in which we operate has, in its best moments, mobilized all parties to come together for the best works—Crown Hall, Beinecke Library, Kimbell Art Museum, and the de Menil Collection are great examples of what Ezra Pound would call tribal "vortices." In this way, making architecture can be as richly muddled and networked as making movies and making music.

Describing the way the tapered windows under the ends of the Kimbell's cycloid shells were shaped by the aquavit-fueled stand-off between Louis Kahn and August Komendant, Saint concludes, "It was a simple touch; but the feature has come to be revered for its grace and candour." This book is similarly refreshing and stimulating for its grace and candor. By example, it nudges us to consider lifting grace and candor over cause and effect as we expand our field and versatilities.

GUY NORDENSON IS A PROFESSOR OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY. HE IS ALSO THE FOUNDING PARTNER OF GUY NORDENSON ASSOCIATES STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS IN NEW YORK.

HOME WORK

Enterprise Housing for San Francisco: The Future of Home-Based Family Businesses
University of San Francisco,
School of Business and Management, Free

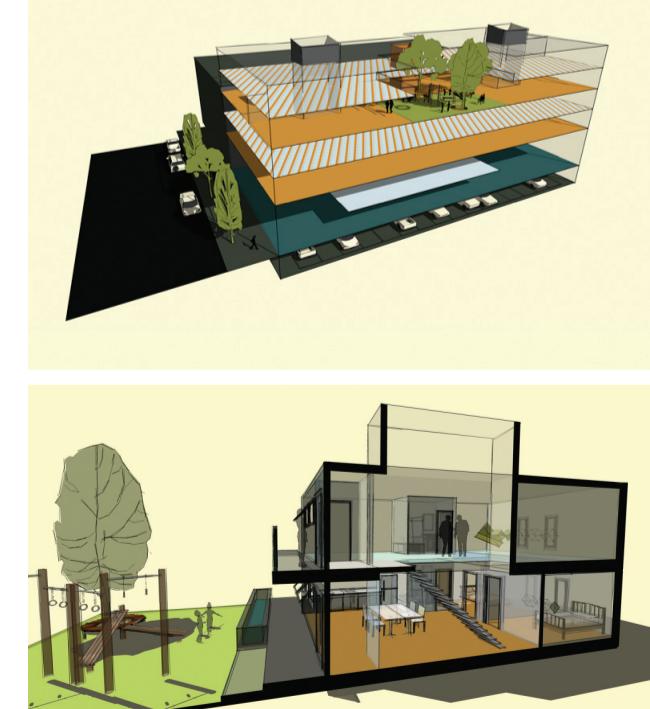
The subprime foreclosure debacle has temporarily put housing on the front pages, web pages, television, radio, and even made its way into the presidential debates. It's been a long time since housing received so much national attention. No less compelling—although less reported upon—is the National Low-Income Housing Coalition's finding "that there is no county in the country where an individual can work 40 hours per week at the minimum wage and afford even a one-bedroom apartment at the local FMR (Fair Market Rents)." In *Enterprise Housing for San Francisco*, the authors write that a need exists to retain working-class families of modest means in San Francisco. The major response they suggest is enterprise housing, or "the use of a residence to generate income from a home-based business or through work done for another."

Enterprise Housing (which is free to the profession from USF School of Business Management) is the product of a one-day charrette organized by Asian Neighborhood Design in April 2004; 35 housing, design, and development professionals, as well as business students, were organized

into four teams, with design briefs in diverse neighborhoods. The resulting designs include horizontal and vertical flexibility, respectively, in a warehouse's reuse, and new-build three-story townhouses on a vacant lot. Horizontal flexibility was achieved through floor plates added to a concrete pier-and-slab structural system. The townhouses took advantage of the sloping topography and included a courtyard at the second level with offices, studios, childcare facilities, a community space and a play area, and residential units above the courtyard. A ten-story building alternated floors with residential and office uses and interspersed support services. One team addressed ownership/management issues with workspaces that could be bought in tandem with a residence, leased from an owner, or managed by a third party.

In the book, five sections of graphs, background information, photographs, and architectural drawings are a one-stop resource about the integration of design, housing, community, and wage work. (A word of disclosure: the section on contributing ideas includes a townhouse modified for home

Proposal for two types of live-work housing.



MASON KIRBY

workers designed for the Minneapolis College of Art and Design's "New American House" competition by architect Troy West and myself as a response to changing household demographics.) Among other ideas put forth are designer Sherry Ahrentzen's typologies of single workspace and multiple workspace types that she calls "hybrid housing;" planner Penny Gurstein's live-work typology focusing on wage work related to electronic communication; and architect Tom Dolan's "Flexhouse," which can accommodate changes in the lives of the occupants and their work.

Two short essays, one by business professors Patricia Harris and Joseph Astrachan and the second by Sherry Ahrentzen are also provocative. Harris and Astrachan refer to the home-based or kitchen-table economy as the "hidden economic engine for millions of U.S. families." Ahrentzen suggests that hybrid houses should be

acknowledged as part of community economic development that links housing to ways in which people "employ their homes as economic tools." In light of corporate downsizing, wages not keeping pace with housing costs, and minimal government subsidies like unemployment insurance, earning an income within the home offers relief, both monetary and psychological. A residential structure is a prerequisite for supplementing incomes and sometimes is the only means of making a living. From this perspective, housing is a place of production where owners and renters might "go to work," shifting from domestic to workspace and where work does not spill into residential areas.

The book is both provocative and creative, anticipating hurdles to implementation and asserting benefits. Yet nagging questions remain about who can afford so-called enterprise housing. For the system to be broadly available to the working poor,

subsidies are required. The housing affordability crisis is eased by bringing paid work into the house or renting out workspace, but may be out of reach for those who cannot afford the housing plus workspace to begin with. To be fair, financial feasibility was included but not the primary aim of the *Enterprise Housing* charette. A useful next step in charettes of this sort might allocate enough time to develop financial plans and subsidy proposals and answer one of San Francisco planner Dean Macris' five questions in his concluding essay, "Will public financial assistance be required to ensure that Enterprise Housing is part of the mix [of uses]?" The answers to an expanded design/financial brief could buttress arguments for national, state, and local housing policies that would benefit all members of the working class, not only higher-income entrepreneurs.

JACQUELINE LEAVITT IS A PROFESSOR OF URBAN PLANNING AT UCLA.

DESIGN ITALIAN STYLE

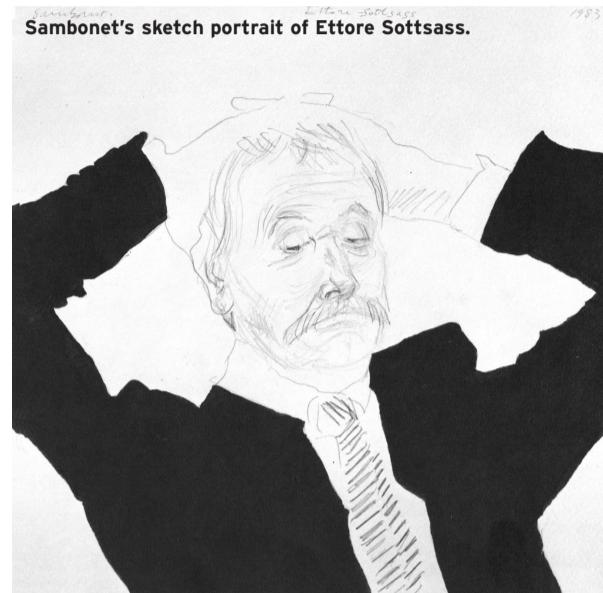
continued from page 17 steel fish poacher he designed in 1954, not only won Italy's prestigious Compasso d'Oro design award but is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Among his many other talents, Sambonet worked as a design consultant for the Italian department store Rinascente and was art director of the magazine *Zodiac*, founded by Adriano Olivetti in the 1950s.

A modern-day Renaissance Man, Sambonet embraced a multi-disciplinary approach while leaving what he called hyperspecialization to others. In sync with fellow Italian Gio Ponti's "global view," Sambonet's integration of various art and design disciplines mirrored the models of the Viennese Jugendstil and Arts & Crafts movements. Sambonet was once quoted

as saying that he was "against consumerism," although "he approved of the people buying objects and trivialities." His legacy will certainly be remembered by his mass-produced objects, carefully crafted yet

utilitarian. The Italian phrase *dal cucchiaio alla città* ("from the spoon to the city") certainly holds true for Sambonet's life and work.

MELISSA FELDMAN IS A FREELANCE WRITER IN NEW YORK CITY.



COURTESY PALAZZO MADAMA

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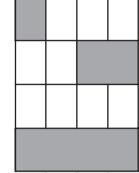
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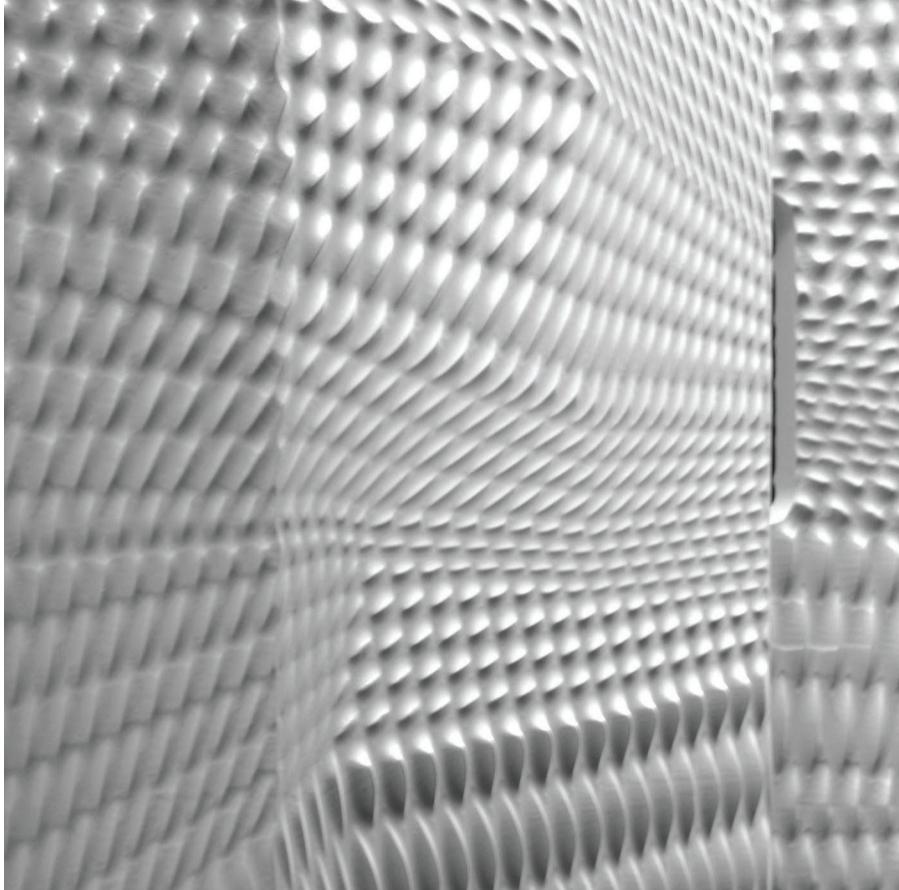
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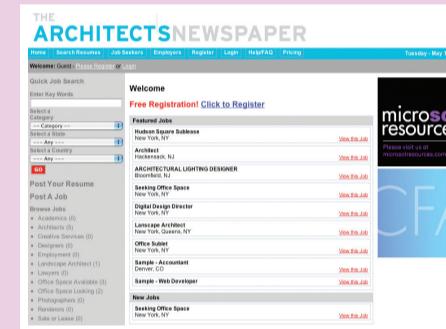
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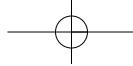
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COMMENT > SAM HALL KAPLAN
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The proposed Dodgerland preserves the 1962 stadium amid retail and parkland development.

landmark stadium not be compromised. Hailed as the epitome of the modern major league ballpark when it opened in 1962, the stadium now is the second oldest in the National League, and when Yankee Stadium is demolished this year, will be third oldest in the majors, ranking behind Chicago's Wrigley Field and Boston's Fenway Park.

Given its potentially valuable site for housing on the edge of the central city, the stadium over the years has been subject to various threats. These have included its wholesale relocation downtown, to be gift-wrapped in a nostalgic urban design in the mode of the recent ballpark re-dos in San Francisco and San Diego. These proposals have been belittled by the Dodger faithful and the city's landmark police. Also roundly razed and promptly dismissed was a pie-in-the-sky proposal by Pritzker-award-winning architect Thom Mayne to demolish the stadium for a residential and recreational development and rebuild it a few miles away on recently dedicated city parkland. The plan alienated almost everyone, from park advocates to Dodger fans and community groups.

In addition, there's an inherent distrust of the team's ownership among fans. Baseball being a sport of traditions, fans have long memories, particularly Dodger fans who have not seen a World Championship in 20 years as the team passed through the hands of the miserly O'Malley family and the otherwise engaged media mogul Rupert Murdoch to the migrant McCourts, fresh-faced and full of vim and vigor from chilly Boston where their nouveau ways were not appreciated as they are here in California.

Not forgotten by some is the team's relocation from Brooklyn a half-century ago. That broke the collective hearts of the hapless faithful in the then-diminishing outer borough, mine included, until of course I moved to Los Angeles (like so many other New Yorkers). It will be interesting how that tidbit of history will be handled in The Dodger Experience museum, that is, if the team can find the financing for its plans while still looking for a center fielder who can hit.

SAM HALL KAPLAN IS A NOTED LOS ANGELES ARCHITECTURE HISTORIAN AND CRITIC.

UPS AND DOWNS IN DODGER TOWN

The recent announcement that the Los Angeles Dodgers plan not to raze their revered stadium overlooking downtown but instead revitalize it with a park-like themed mall has been greeted with guarded optimism by both fans and a faithless public.

No one but the most imprudent publicist wants to lend the ambitious \$500 million proposal his blessing just yet—certainly not in this hype-happy city, annually promised new architectural icons, fanciful ephemeral attractions, and a championship baseball team.

Then there is the down-and-dirty concern of how people are supposed to get to the new, improved, and pricey stadium, if not by private car. There already are hints of an attendance fall-off because of the increasing crush of traffic, though I suspect the team's mediocre performance so far this season has also been a factor.

Though close to downtown,

the stadium was designed and built 50 years ago in a suburban mode, surrounded by sprawling surface lots and served by a web of freeways that was adequate for the first few decades but has since become a nightmare.

If "Dodgerland" is to attract the crowds needed to viably take its place in the Southland's galaxy of themed attractions alongside Universal City and Disneyland, it is going to need a rail connection to the nearby Gold Line in Chinatown or to the Union Station transit hub serving downtown. Buses just won't do.

Another possible connection would be the construction of a less costly tramway or trolley. This also would pay homage to the origination of the team's name in Brooklyn, from a popular description of its fans a century ago, who when going to Ebbets Field to see a ballgame would have to dodge the streetcars converging there.

Indeed, I remember fondly in

the 1940s in that beloved borough of my birth paying three cents to ride the Coney Island Trolley to the Parade Grounds and the bandbox of a ballpark beyond, to sit in a 25-cent bleacher seat. The ticket was courtesy of *The Brooklyn Eagle* where I worked as a newsboy.

Both the Dodger management and Mayor Villaraigosa heartily agree that a transit connection is needed, and at the press conference announcing the stadium plans, pledged to actively explore possibilities. However, given the present meltdown of the municipal budget along with federal aid to the city, no one is holding his breath.

Whether a real hope or hype, the plans for "Dodgerland" read well, taking advantage of the stadium's dramatic hilltop site. Featured is a welcoming entry marked by a tree-lined promenade and grand plaza, conveniently connected to a relaxed landscaped pedestrian street

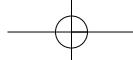
encircling the ballpark. Christened Dodger Way and lined with eateries and an array of stores, the street is designed to entice fans to come early and stay late, to shop and dine, and not incidentally to reduce the crush of traffic around the stadium immediately before and after the games.

Also in the offing is something labeled The Dodger Experience, described as a museum "showcasing the history of the Dodgers in an interactive setting."

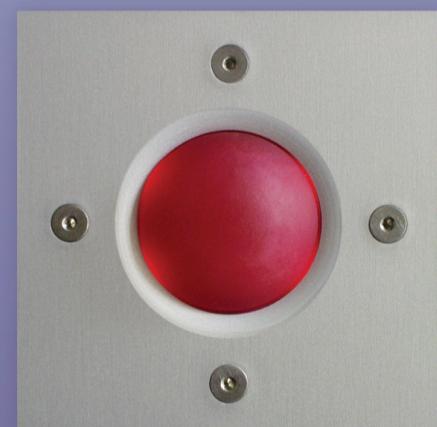
Welcome to Dodgerland, but don't forget your Visa card.

Playing to LA's benign climate, the team's culture, and the Southland's consumerism, the plans were fashioned with appropriate flair by the design team of the locally based firms of Johnson Fain and Rios Clementi Hale Studios for architecture and landscape, together with the HKS Sports and Entertainment Group.

To their credit, the plans also respect the local concerns, especially among fans, that the



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